

§ 17.5

(3) Full names, addresses, birth dates, kinship, and marital status of the decedent's survivors, including identification of those survivors who were dependent for support upon the decedent at the time of his death;

(4) Degree of support afforded by the decedent to each survivor dependent upon him for support at the time of his death;

(5) Decedent's general physical and mental condition before death;

(6) Itemized bills for medical and burial expenses incurred by reason of the incident causing death, or itemized receipts of payment for such expenses;

(7) If damages for pain and suffering prior to death are claimed, a physician's detailed statement specifying the injuries suffered, duration of pain and suffering, any drugs administered for pain, and the decedent's physical condition in the interval between injury and death;

(8) Any other evidence or information which may have a bearing on either the responsibility of the United States for the death or the damages claimed.

(c) *Property damage.* In support of a claim for injury to or loss of property, real or personal, the claimant may be required to submit the following evidence or information:

(1) Proof of ownership;

(2) A detailed statement of the amount claimed with respect to each item of property;

(3) An itemized receipt of payment for necessary repairs or itemized written estimates of the cost of such repairs;

(4) A statement listing date of purchase, purchase price, and salvage value where repair is not economical;

(5) Any other evidence or information which may have a bearing on either the responsibility of the United States for the injury to or loss of property or the damages claimed.

§ 17.5 Investigations.

The Department may investigate, or may request any other Federal agency to investigate, a claim filed under this subpart.

§ 17.6 Claims investigation.

(a) When a claim has been filed with the Department, the head of the orga-

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nizational unit concerned or his designee shall designate one employee in that unit who shall act as, and who shall be referred to herein as, the Claims Investigating Officer for that particular claim. When a claim is received by the head of an organizational unit to which this subpart applies, it shall be forwarded with or without comment to the designated Claims Investigating Officer, who shall:

(1) Investigate as completely as is practicable the nature and circumstances of the occurrence causing the loss or damage of the claimant's property;

(2) Ascertain the extent of loss or damage to the claimant's property;

(3) Assemble the necessary forms with required data contained therein;

(4) Prepare a brief statement setting forth the facts relative to the claim, a statement whether the claim satisfies the requirements of this subpart, and a recommendation as to the amount to be paid in settlement of the claim;

(5) Submit such forms, statements, and all necessary supporting papers to the head of the organizational unit having jurisdiction over the employee involved, who will be responsible for assuring that all necessary data has been obtained for the file. The head of the organizational unit will transmit the entire file to the General Counsel.

§ 17.7 Authority to adjust, determine, compromise, and settle claims.

The General Counsel, the Deputy General Counsel, and such employees of the Office of the General Counsel as may be designated by the General Counsel, are authorized to consider, ascertain, adjust, determine, compromise, and settle claims pursuant to the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 U.S.C. 2671, and the regulations contained in 28 CFR part 14 and in this subpart.

§ 17.8 Limitations on authority.

(a) An award, compromise, or settlement of a claim under section 2672 of Title 28, United States Code, and this subpart in excess of \$25,000 may be effected only with the prior written approval of the Attorney General or his